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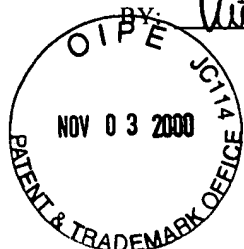
BY:

*Victoria A. Jones*

DATE:

*10/31/00*

PATENT



**Box Non-Fee Amendment (Pats)**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re:	Patent Application of Nanning J. Arfsten, <i>et al.</i>	: Group Art Unit: 1775 ✓
Appln. No.:	09/437,948 ✓	: Examiner: L. Miranda ✓
Filed:	November 10, 1999 ✓	:
For:	NIOBIUM OXIDE-BASED LAYERS FOR THIN FILM OPTICAL COATINGS AND PROCESSES FOR PRODUCING THE SAME	: Attorney Docket No. 275-3

**AMENDMENT**

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2000 (Paper No. 5) in the above-identified application. This response is being timely filed.

Please amend the above-identified application, without prejudice, as follows:

**In the claims:**

Please amend claims 1, 11-12 and 19-20 as follows:

1. (Amended) A thin film optical coating for use on a substrate, having a layer comprising sol-gel derived niobium oxide, wherein the layer is capable of providing an index of refraction of at least about 1.90.

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